

August 4, 1977

KIRCH LEAVES FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

After more than 26 years of service and leadership in wildlife conservation, Wayne E. Kirch of Las Vegas has recently resigned from his duties with the Nevada State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners.

Kirch began serving on the Fish and Game Board in 1951 by appointment and was subsequently elected by Clark County voters to the 17-man commission for five four year terms. During this period he served as chairman of the commission and its executive board.

After the state legislature changed the commission from a 17-man elected board to nine men appointed by the Governor in 1969, Kirch received successive appointments from Governors Laxalt and O'Callaghan.

During his service with the commission, Kirch proposed and championed the state wildlife management area concept and personally negotiated the purchase and establishment of the Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area. It was through his interest and dedication that both the federal Willow Beach Fish Hatchery and the state Lake Mead Fish Hatchery were constructed in Southern Nevada.

Kirch has served continuously as chairman of the Colorado River Wildlife Council and as chairman of the Nevada Predator and Rodent Control Committee since 1952, as a member of the Pacific Flyway Council for 19 years and as a former member of the Advisory Committee on Federal Land Law Revision.

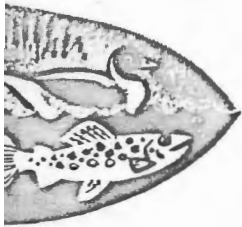
Kirch's many honors include recognition as Conservationist of the Year by the Nevada Wildlife Federation, Honorary Life Member Award by the Western Association of State Fish and Game Commissioners, the Charles A. Richey Memorial Award from the National Park Service, dedication of the 14,000 acre "Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area" in his name as well as numerous civic awards including "Nevada's Outstanding Citizen". At this year's Western Association meeting in Tucson, Arizona, he was presented with the Special Honor Award, the second of

only two such awards given by the Association in its 57 year history.

Kirch has been instrumental in securing annual grants for the Nevada Department of Fish and Game in the amount of \$50,000 to \$75,000 each year from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority to be used to supplement the Fish and Game program in Southern Nevada.

Kirch is owner-manager of Wayne's Auto Body in Las Vegas and a member of the Bank of Nevada Board of Directors.

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COLORADO RIVER WILDLIFE COUNCIL

Jack R. Grieb, Chairman
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216

MEMBERSHIP:

California Department of Fish and Game
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Nevada Department of Fish and Game
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Colorado Division of Wildlife

COOPERATING FEDERAL AGENCIES:

National Park Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
Corps of Engineers
Coast Guard
Bureau of Indian Affairs

RESOLUTION NO. 1

of the

COLORADO RIVER WILDLIFE COUNCIL

**APPOINTMENT OF MR. WAYNE E. KIRCH AS ADVISOR
TO AND LIFETIME PARTICIPATING MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the extensive wildlife resources of the Colorado River basin are of major significance from a recreational, environmental and economic standpoint; and

WHEREAS, many of these resources are most effectively managed and their continued abundance assured by coordinated management among basin states; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wayne E. Kirch of Las Vegas, Nevada, serving as Commissioner for the Nevada Fish and Game Department, did recognize the need for such coordinated management; and

WHEREAS, in response to that recognized need, Mr. Kirch did, in 1954, cause to be created the Tri-State Committee for the Development of Wildlife Resources on the Colorado River consisting of membership from the States of Nevada, Arizona and California; and

WHEREAS, success of that initial Committee, under Mr. Kirch's leadership, in effecting coordination of wildlife activities of member states and other agencies which had interstate significance did cause expansion to include all states of the drainage basin into the Colorado River Wildlife Management Committee, now known as the Colorado River Wildlife Council; and

WHEREAS; the Council has, under Mr. Kirch's continuing chairmanship, made measurable progress with respect to its principal purpose "To foster, encourage and promote the sound management and use of all fish and wildlife resources in the Colorado River drainage;" and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirch has resigned from the Nevada Fish and Game Commission, which required his replacement on the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes continued service by Mr. Kirch would be stimulating to its future productivity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Colorado River Wildlife Council, in conference in Las Vegas, Nevada this 3rd day of April, 1978, invites Mr. Wayne E. Kirch to participate as advisor to the Council; and

BE IT FURTHER PROVIDED, Mr. Kirch is appointed a lifetime participating member of the Council to continue his service thereto with full rights of such membership.

FOLLOWING THE NEVADA WILDLIFE TRAIL

A HISTORY OF NEVADA WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT



*Written By
Dave Mathis*



WAYNE E. KIRCH
1909 – 1989

Wayne E. Kirch served on the Nevada Fish and Game Commission, first as an elected representative from Clark County and later as a Governor appointed member, from 1951 to 1977. His 25 year Commission tenure is the longest on record. Nineteen of those years he served in a leadership role either as Chairman (14 years) or Vice Chairman (five years.) He has said, "In the early 1950's wildlife management was growing. It was a time when people with vision could make a significant contribution."

It was under his dedicated guidance and ability to enlist support for his cause that the corner stone was laid for the management of Nevada's wildlife resources. Most important was his vision of what the future might hold for Nevada and what might be done to offset possible adverse effects on wildlife. He will be remembered as the father of the State's system of wildlife management areas. Nearly all of the first nine areas acquired by the State either through purchase, lease or transference and amounting to well over 100,000 acres were obtained during his tenure. He had his hand in a host of other projects and activities to enhance Nevada wildlife status from the building or revamping of hatcheries, to the building of reservoirs as additional fisheries habitat and as fishing holes, and to the installation of man-made watering devices to extend habitat. In the course of this leadership, accomplished with a great sense of humor and wit, Wayne earned a number of awards from his peers including the U.S. Department of Interior's "Public Service Award." Kirch was a Las Vegas businessman, arriving there in the 1930's and prospering as the city grew.